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THE OPI REPORT

Office of Public Instruction
Ed Argenbright, Superintendent
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

MARCH 1986

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Hearing on Precertification Test Scores and Accreditation Changes

At its March meeting, the Board of Public Education will hold a public hearing on several proposed changes in the state's accreditation standards and on the proposed minimum scores for the teacher competency testing precertification requirement. The hearing will begin at 11 a.m. on March 20.

Comments on proposed changes in the following rules will be heard:

10.55.202—Number of meetings held by school trustees; formulation of a philosophy reflecting the instructional needs of middle school students.

10.55.302—County superintendents' records on registered teacher certificates.

10.55.402—Course requirements for middle schools (grades 7-8) funded at high school rates.

10.55.505—Minor changes in rules on school fire drills.

10.57.212—Proposed minimum scores for the precertification test (National Teachers Examination Core Battery).

For more information about the hearing, call the Board of Public Education, 444-6576.

Sex Equity Advisory Committee to Meet

The Sex Equity Advisory Committee will meet at the Office of Public Instruction in Helena on March 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The advisory committee was formed to counsel the Office of Public Instruction and Montana High School Association on the implementation of the 1983 Title IX agreement on equity in Montana athletics.

For more information, contact Judith Johnson at OPI (444-3693).

1986-87 Montana Teacher of the Year Nominees Sought

Nominations are being sought for the Montana Teacher of the Year, the state's outstanding educator for school year 1986-87. Any individual or group may nominate a teacher. Selections should be made without regard to sex, race, national origin, religion or handicap. Nominees should be dedicated teachers (K-12) in any accredited Montana school.

While teaching excellence—a superior ability to help students learn—should be the primary consideration in making a nomination, participation in professional and community activities and respect for students, parents and colleagues also are important qualifications.

Since candidates must prepare a substantial portfolio presentation, it is wise to begin planning now. Nomination guidelines will be mailed to principals in April. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 1986.

For more information, contact: Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, Ed Eschler, Chairman, Office of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620.

Four Schools Nominated for National Recognition

Four Montana schools have been nominated to compete in the nationwide Elementary School Recognition Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The program brings attention to exemplary, successful schools and honors them for their efforts.

Nominated were Russell School, Kalispell; Central School, Helena; Monforton School, Bozeman; and C.M. Russell Elementary, Missoula. An evaluation team will visit the nominated schools this spring, and winners will be announced in June.

Challenge Project Seeks Administrative Interns

School districts are invited to participate in the Montana Educational Challenge Project's Administrative Intern Program, a performance-based program that gives districts a means to expand their administrative component where needed or provide continuity when an administrator plans to relocate or retire.

The school district identifies a teacher or other staff member with the potential to become an intern and enters a cooperative agreement for that person to pursue graduate studies (special seminars and summer sessions) and internship service under the supervision of one of the district's current administrators.

The program is a cooperative endeavor of the University of Montana, Montana State University, Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction.

Districts should express their interest in participating by March 14 so that their candidate may take part in the 1986 summer session at one of the universities. Program details may be obtained from Claudette Morton, MECP Administrative Intern Program Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620 (444-3731).

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Biology Teacher

The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) is seeking nominations for its 1986 Outstanding Biology Teacher Award Program.

Nominees should be teachers grades 7-12 who spend the majority of their school time teaching the life sciences at any public or private Montana school. They need not be members of NABT. Nominations may come from colleagues, administrators, students or parents. The winning Montana teacher will receive a pair of world class binoculars, a certificate and an invitation to the NABT convention in Baltimore in October.

Please send a nomination letter and request for application to Craig Kuchel, Florence-Carlton High School, 5540 Old

Highway 93, Florence, MT 59833 (273-6301). Applications must be returned to Kuchel by April 15.

Major Smithsonian Exhibit in Bozeman

"Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future," a Smithsonian Institute exhibition about the ways Americans have imagined the technology and lifestyles of the future, will be at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, March 1 through May 12.

The exhibit features industrial prototypes, architectural models, toys, games, illustrations and other media that reflect the American proclivity for speculation on the future and faith in material progress.

Schools or large groups should arrange their tours in advance. Contact the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717 (994-2251).

Summer Seminars in the Humanities

The Montana Committee for the Humanities is sponsoring summer seminars for selected teachers who wish to make an in-depth study of several humanities topics. The four-week seminars will be held in Missoula and Havre in June. Participating Montana teachers (K-12) will receive graduate credit and a $200 stipend.

Two seminars at the University of Montana begin on June 23: "Concepts of Heroic Virtue in the *Iliad*, *Aeneid* and *Bhagavadgita*," Professor John Hay, instructor, and "Terrorism Past and Present," taught by Professsor Richard Drake.

William Thackeray, professor of English at Northern Montana College, will teach a seminar entitled, "The Upper Missouri River: Corridor and Icon." The seminar begins in Havre on June 16 and includes a one-week float trip on the Missouri River.

Up to 15 participants will be chosen for each seminar. In addition to the $200 stipend, travel and expense money is available to teachers who must relocate for a seminar.

For more information about applications, contact the Montana Committee for the Humanities, PO Box 8036, Missoula, MT 59807 (243-6022).

Dates to Remember

March 2-8	PTA Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week
March 18	Study Skills Inservice Helena (Judy Birch, OPI 444-5663)
March 20-21	Board of Public Education Helena (444-6576)
April 13-14	MT Assoc. of Secondary School Principals Conference Lewistown (442-2510)

Missing Children Information

The following is the State Department of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (17 years and under). For details on the Missing Children Program, call Bill Erwin, Department of Justice, Helena (444-3625).

NAME	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	HAIR	EYE	CITY
Marshall, Nyleen K.	W	F	3'2"	29	091878	7	BRO	BLU	Jefferson Co. SO
Strutzel, Michael J.	W	M	3'0"	30	120481	4	BLN	BLU	Butte/Silver Bow

PD = Police Department
SO = Sheriff's Office

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Toll free education hot line
1-800-332-3402